

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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R 241400Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1652

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFORS, PINT, SP

SUBJ: U.S. VISIT OF NICOLAS FRANCO

1. NICOLAS FRANCO, NEPHEW OF CAUDILLO AND ACTIVE LIBERAL POLITICAN IN HIS OWN RIGHT, WILL VISIT US STARTING MAY 1, IN CONNECTION WITH WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CONGRESS IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS. FRANCO ALSO PLANS TO BE IN WASHINGTON MAY 6-13 AND STATES HE HAS LINED UP EXTENSIVE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS WITH US LEGISLATORS, SOME OF WHOM HE HAS MET AT PAST GATHERINGS OF INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY UNION. FRANCO MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY POSSIBILITY OF MEETINGS WITH SENATORS SPARKMAN, MANSFIELD, SYMINGTON, JACKSON, AND POSSIBLY KENNEDY, AND CONGRESSMEN DERWINSKI AND MCCLORY.

2. IN COURTESY CALL ON APRIL 23, FRANCO SAID HE HOPED TO MEET APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF DEPARTMENT AND, IF POSSIBLE, CALL ON VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER. HE SAID HE HAD INFORMED AMBASSADOR ALBA IN WASHINGTON OF HIS VISIT AND ASKED HIS ASSISTANCE IN LINING UP APPOINTMENTS, BOTH WITH DEPARTMENT AND VICE PRESIDENT. I NOTED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR US FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT TO FORESEE THE AVAILABILITY OF ANY PARTICULAR US OFFICIALS. I SAID THAT WE WOULD INFORM DEPARTMENT OF HIS WISHES AND SUGGESTED

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ALAN LUKENS AS POINT OF CONTACT.

3. FRANCO'S NAME AND FAMILY CONNECTION GIVE HIM SPECIAL IMPORTANCE AS PROPONENT OF CHANGE WITHIN SYSTEM. HE RECENTLY REASSERTED HIS LIBERAL CREDENTIALS IN WIDELY PUBLICIZED INTERVIEW IN MAGAZINE CAMBIO 16 IN WHICH HE URGED SPEED-UP OF PACE OF POLITICAL REFORM ALONG WITH REVISION OF CONSTITUTION. DESPITE DIFFERING POLITICAL VIEWS, FRANCO MAINTAINS FAIRLY CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH HIS UNCLE AND KEEPS HIM INFORMED OF HIS INITIATIVES. OUR IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, IS THAT CAUDILLO DOES NOT TAKE HIS NEPHEW TOO SERIOUSLY.

4. I RECOMMEND THAT FRANCO BE RECEIVED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN IF HE CONTACTS DEPARTMENT. IF ALBA REQUESTS CALL ON VICE PRESIDENT, I RECOMMEND SUCH REQUEST BE SUPPORTED.
STABLER

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